

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to RESIST the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I doubt the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will give foundation for a monopoly that will inhibit competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor than cable operators by merit of its larger size. However, it is doubtful that any difference in programming or support will be negligible.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, and the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will not result in increased competition in the broadband market nor provide the consumer with any significant price advantage for high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. It simply paves the way for eventual decreases in competition, with the corresponding price hikes and hidden fees that are all too familiar to consumers following the deregulation of local cable and telephone companies.

I appreciate your consideration of my views. Please vote against this merger.

Sincerely,

Julie Niwston
2005 S. Tyler
Amarillo, AK 79109